United States Patent Application

for a

NETWORK TOPOLOGY FOR USE WITH AN OPEN INTERNET PROTOCOL SERVICES PLATFORM

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS:

Your petitioner prays that letters patent may be granted to him as inventor of a **NETWORK TOPOLOGY FOR USE WITH AN OPEN INTERNET PROTOCOL SERVICES PLATFORM** as set forth in the following specification.

MORRISS, BATEMAN, O'BRYANT & COMPAGNI
5882 South 900 East, Suite 300
Salt Lake City, Utah 84121
(801) 685-2302
1619.EMCO.NP

BACKGROUND

[0001] **Cross Reference to Related Applications:** This document claims priority to, and incorporates by reference all of the subject matter included in the provisional patent application filed 02/27/01, titled **OPEN INTERNET PROTOCOL SERVICES PLATFORM AND TOPOLOGY FOR USE**, and all of the subject matter included in the co-pending application titled **OPEN INTERNET PROTOCOL SERVICES PLATFORM**, and filed September 25, 2001.

[0002] **The Field Of The Invention:** This invention relates generally to network topologies and their applications. Specifically, the present invention is a new network topology that applies the advantages of an Open IP Services Platform as described in co-pending application titled **OPEN INTERNET PROTOCOL SERVICES PLATFORM**, wherein the new network topology enables more efficient utilization of network services.

[0003] **Background of the Invention:** Access to the Internet or other global information networks is generally

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becoming a commodity as Service Providers (SPs) and Local Exchange Carriers (LECs) look to new value-added applications and services in order to retain customers, attract new business clients, and generate revenue. Enterprises face a limited supply of certified network administrators, increased demand for high-bandwidth network services, and the need to reduce the total cost of ownership while preserving existing infrastructure investments.

[0004] Unfortunately, existing solutions for SPs and LECs fall short in a number of important areas. For example, most customer-premise equipment (CPE) is not Telco quality, thus resulting in inconsistent, unreliable service and problematic service agreements. Next, integration between network devices from a variety of vendors is difficult at best. Furthermore, a lack of extensibility and flexibility makes CPE difficult to scale. New application services can require a large upgrade, or at least a visit to the customer to modify or replace equipment. There are almost always new costs associated with every new piece of Internet Protocol (IP) functionality, as well as additional management issues.